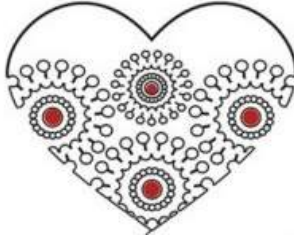


# yatra Exotic Routes

## ROMANCE IN RAJASTHAN

(A treat for those in love)

8 nts - Delhi/Agra/Jaipur/Jodhpur/Udaipur/Delhi



### Day 1: DELHI

Arriving in Delhi, you'll be warmly welcomed at the airport and escorted to your chosen hotel for a comfortable stay. After settling in, the adventure begins with a tour of the Indian capital, where the pulse of modern India meets the echoes of its rich past. Delhi is a city of contrasts, offering a fascinating fusion of historical treasures and contemporary charm. Your tour takes you through "Old Delhi" with its bustling streets, majestic mosques, and vibrant bazaars, and "New Delhi," with its wide boulevards and stately government buildings.

Begin by visiting Raj Ghat, a peaceful memorial marking the spot where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated, and reflect on his enduring legacy. Next, marvel at the grandeur of Jama Masjid, one of the largest mosques in India, its immense courtyard a symbol of the Mughal Empire's glory. You'll also have a chance to view the imposing Red Fort from the outside, its red sandstone walls telling stories of an era long past.

In New Delhi, explore the Qutb Minar, a striking 12th-century minaret that towers over the city, followed by a visit to Humayun's Tomb, an exquisite garden-tomb that inspired the design of the Taj Mahal. The day concludes with a scenic drive past India Gate, the Parliament House, and the Presidential Residence before heading back to your hotel to relax.

**Highlight of the day: A fun introduction to the local language, learning a few useful phrases to connect with people during your trip!**

### Day 2: DELHI / AGRA (Approx. 205 km, 5 hours)

After a hearty breakfast, you'll travel to Agra, a city synonymous with the Mughal Empire and home to some of the most iconic landmarks in India. Your first stop is the magnificent Red Fort, a vast citadel perched on the banks of the Yamuna River. Built from red sandstone, the fort impresses with its grand architecture, featuring intricate marble pavilions and lavish royal chambers. Stroll through its historic corridors, imagining the life of emperors and their courts who once roamed these halls.

As the afternoon fades, prepare for the awe-inspiring sight of the Taj Mahal. Arriving as the sun dips toward the horizon, the marble monument glows with a soft, golden light, creating a romantic and almost ethereal atmosphere. Built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife, the Taj Mahal is a testament to eternal love. Whether viewed from the water gardens or up close, its beauty captivates all who see it, leaving you with a lasting impression of its serene splendor.

**Highlight of the day: A delightful rickshaw ride to witness the Taj Mahal's beauty as the day fades into the magical hues of sunset..**

### Day 3: AGRA / FATEHPUR SIKRI / JAIPUR (Approx. 240 km, 5 hours)

After breakfast, set off on a journey to Jaipur, the vibrant capital of Rajasthan, with a stop along the way at Fatehpur Sikri, a city steeped in mystery and beauty. Once a bustling Mughal capital, Fatehpur Sikri now stands as a stunningly preserved ghost town. Wander through its palaces, courtyards, and mosques, admiring the intricate stone carvings and delicate architecture. The city's mysterious abandonment has fueled many theories, but its beauty remains undeniable, with its grand halls and sweeping views over the surrounding countryside. Continue your journey to Jaipur, the "Pink City," where your arrival will be met with a warm welcome at your hotel. Spend the rest of the evening unwinding, perhaps indulging in the hotel's spa or simply soaking in the unique atmosphere of Rajasthan's royal capital.

**Highlight of the day: A rejuvenating 60-minute massage at your hotel's spa for the ultimate relaxation.**

#### **Day 4: JAIPUR**

After breakfast, you'll head to Amber Fort, a stunning citadel perched on a hill just outside Jaipur. The fort is an architectural masterpiece, combining Mughal and Rajput elements in its grand halls adorned with mirrors, gemstones, and intricate frescoes. Take an unforgettable ride up to the fort's entrance on the back of an elephant (or by jeep if necessary), as the ancient walls and towers rise majestically before you. Inside, explore the royal chambers, including the stunning Sheesh Mahal (Hall of Mirrors), where a single candle's light is reflected into a thousand twinkles.

In the afternoon, return to Jaipur for a tour of the city's highlights. Admire the Hawa Mahal, also known as the Palace of Winds, where royal women once gazed upon the street from behind its lattice windows. Visit the City Palace, a sprawling complex filled with courtyards, museums, and royal apartments. Lastly, explore the Jantar Mantar, an 18th-century astronomical observatory with massive, still-functioning instruments.

**Highlight of the day: Get an exotic henna tattoo on your palm – stylish, trendy, and temporary!**

#### **Day 5: JAIPUR / JODHPUR (Approx. 320 km, 7 hours)**

After breakfast, depart for Jodhpur, Rajasthan's "Blue City," named for the vibrant blue hue of its houses. Upon arrival, visit the imposing Mehrangarh Fort, a massive hilltop fortress that dominates the landscape. Inside, explore the richly decorated palaces and enjoy stunning views of the city below, its rooftops shimmering in shades of blue. You'll also visit the serene Mandore Gardens just outside the city, a peaceful retreat filled with intricately carved cenotaphs, tranquil ponds, and wandering wildlife.

As you walk through the gardens, you'll encounter monkeys swinging from the trees, squirrels darting across the lawns, and the calm beauty of the surrounding nature.

**Highlight of the day: A charming ride in a traditional horse-drawn tonga through the lively bazaar.**

#### **Day 6: JODHPUR / RANAKPUR / UDAIPUR (Approx. 260 km, 6 hours)**

After breakfast, journey to Udaipur, stopping along the way to visit the famous Jain temples of Ranakpur. These gleaming white marble temples are renowned for their intricately carved pillars—1,444 in total, with no two alike. Explore this serene sanctuary, where the detailed artistry and sense of peace leave a profound impression. Arriving in Udaipur, known as the "Venice of the East," you'll be charmed by its picturesque lakes and stunning palaces. Check into your hotel and enjoy a relaxing evening in this romantic city, often considered one of the most beautiful in India.

**Highlight of the day: A soothing 60-minute massage at your hotel's spa – a true treat for body and mind.**

#### **Day 7: UDAIPUR**

Udaipur is a city of palaces, lakes, and romance. After breakfast, begin your day with a visit to the City Palace, an opulent complex that overlooks the serene waters of Lake Pichola. Wander through its mosaic-adorned halls, marble courtyards, and intricately carved windows that frame stunning views of the lake. You'll also visit the Sahelion-ki-Badi, the "Garden of the Maidens," a peaceful retreat filled with fountains, pavilions, and shady walkways.

In the afternoon, enjoy a relaxing boat ride on Lake Pichola, taking in the majestic views of Udaipur's palaces and temples from the water. End your day with a unique experience: a cooking demonstration, where you'll learn the secrets of Indian cuisine, followed by a delicious meal with a local family.

**Highlight of the day: A special cooking demonstration (with the recipe book as take away present) followed by an unforgettable dinner with a local family.**

#### **Day 8: UDAIPUR / DELHI (Flight)**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight back to Delhi. Once there, settle into your hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. Whether you choose to do some last-minute shopping or simply relax, this is your time to savor the final moments of your Rajasthan adventure.

**Highlight of the day: An hour of yoga at the hotel – where better than India, the birthplace of this ancient practice?**

#### **Day 9: DEPARTURE FROM DELHI**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport in time for your flight back home, carrying with you memories of a magical journey through Rajasthan.